

**District IV Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2003
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The District IV Advisory Board Meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Water Center in Herman Hill Park, located at Pawnee and Broadway. In attendance were eight (8) District Advisory Board Members, seven (7) staff and five (5) citizens signing in.

Members Present

Wayne Wells
Rex Gray
Jim Benton
Jerry McGinty
Doug Leeper
Ed Koon
Brian Dehler
Council Member Paul Gray

Members Absent

Tom Engleman
Paul Ward

Guest Presenters

Debbie Koepplinger, Sedgwick County

Staff Present

Dana Brown, City Manager's Office
Officer Richard Mellard, Police
Officer Stevens, Police
Scott Logan, Public Works Engineering
Several other officers (did not sign in)

Guest List

Bill Gale
Marilyn Johnson
Daniel Kamau
Joyce Offill

Before beginning the business meeting, **Libby Albers, Environmental Health**, provided a tour of the WATER Center. The Center is located in Herman Hill Park at Pawnee and Broadway just west of the South Patrol Station. The Center has been operating since December 2002 to process the cleaned ground water from the Gilbert & Mosley site and utilize it in educational displays and activities as well as flow back into the Arkansas River. Approximately 200 million gallons of water has been processed since then beginning the operation with one million gallons now being processed daily.

Albers gave more history on the contaminated ground water and how it was first detected when planning was underway for the development of the Old Town area. Typically, the Environmental Protection Agency designates these contaminated areas as Super Fund sites. Cleanup of the Super Fund sites costs the community millions of dollars and requires an extremely lengthy process that often takes 30-40 years. However, the City of Wichita made history by agreeing to assume the cleanup of the 3,800-acre site by working with the responsible parties to fund the cleanup and using innovative processes for the cleanup. The development of Old Town was allowed to continue due to a certificate of release program in which property buyers were not held responsible for the contamination but rather the previous property owners whose land was used by manufacturing businesses.

The ground water in the Gilbert & Mosley site was especially vulnerable to the chemicals used by many of the manufacturer processes due to its sandy soil and shallow depth of 12-15 feet. These conditions allowed the chemicals to travel about one-and-one-half feet daily each day. Thirteen extraction sites are used to air strip the contaminants from the water and send the water back to its natural place.

Order of Business

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes for August 6, 2003

The minutes were approved with no changes 8:0 (Koon/Benton)

Approval of Agenda for September 3, 2003

The agenda was approved as presented 8:0 (Koon/Benton)

Public Agenda

The Public Agenda allows members of the public to present matters to the District Advisory Board. Each presentation is limited to a period of five minutes unless extended by the Board.

Debbie Koepplinger, Sedgwick County Health Department, provided a report as a follow up on a request received from the District Advisory Board to hold another immunization clinic. The clinic was held on August 20, 2003 and served eight clients with a total of 17 immunizations. The department plans to offer another day for influenza shots, perhaps in October. The cost for a flu shot is \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for kids 6 months to 8 years. The move to the Wichita Mall is still scheduled for late fall and the Board of County Commissioners will be signing the lease sometime in September.

Marilyn Johnson, 538 W. 31st S, read a letter regarding Council Member Gray's opposing vote during City Council action for the anti tethering amendment to the Animal Control Ordinance. Johnson expressed confusion, anger, and frustration about how the Council Member could vote against the amendment when DAB IV had supported it.

Council Member Gray explained that each DAB is an advisory board for their council member by providing recommendations and input regarding action on matters. However, the council member's vote at the Council meeting might not always agree with the previous action taken by the advisory board. He also noted that he would not typically allow a person attending the DAB IV meeting to express that type of criticism of other persons but since the remarks were directed toward him, Council Member Gray said he allowed Ms. Johnson to continue.

Scott Logan, Public Works Engineering, presented an update on street conditions and traffic along Seneca from Kellogg to Interstate 235. Public Works is evaluating that area to determine whether raising the speed limit along that area of Seneca from 35

mph to 40 mph would be appropriate. He recommends raising the posted speed limit to match prevailing conditions on the five-lane roadway. Seneca is a major arterial street and has recently been widened to 5 lanes. According to the data recently collected, the prevailing speed is 42 mph.

Several members of the Board asked questions about the consideration to increase the speed limit the information presented. Logan's responses are shown in italics.

Jim Benton - Will people push 40 mph if raised? *Possibly.*

Doug Leeper - Is there a high school South of 31st? *Yes, South High but left turn when leaving the school is prohibited which is would help with traffic flow.*

Ed Koon - What would it cost? *\$50.00 per sign for 12 signs, about \$600.*

Benton - What is the length of the yellow light? *Don't know for sure but it is not yet synchronized with the progression speed.*

Jerry McGinty commented that he lives in the area and supports raising the speed.

Leeper asked Police if they had any input for the discussion. Police responded that raising the speed limit in that area would probably be fine.

Action: Motion passed 8:0 (Benton) to support raising the speed limit of Seneca between Kellogg and I-235 to 40 mph.

Police Reports

Officer Bill Stevens, Community Police Officer for Beat #27, reported that the Fidelity Bank on South Seneca has had numerous robberies and he is working with the bank to upgrade their security.

Officer Richard Mellard introduced a new officer to the area, Officer Cundiff. He also spoke about a holiday event in the area of Second Street and St. Paul known as the Lights of St. Paul. Business and community groups who participate are designated a certain portion of the area to build their own display. The group will be responsible for setting up and taking down their display. Officer Mellard said that he was worked the past few years to develop this project with ARC and hopes it will become a winter River Festival for the neighborhoods. The Sunflower Neighborhood Association is planning to have a light display.

Action: Received and filed.

Updates, Issues, and Reports

Council Member Gale said that several guests were in the audience that he would like to recognize. He introduced **Bill Gale**, Southwest Neighborhood Association President and former District IV Council Member. Gale presented information on a research about building a sidewalk on South Meridian by the new Alford Library. In addition, a lighted crosswalk has been requested at that point.

Benton stated that he thought the west side was probably best for a sidewalk. **Council Member Gray** asked if the traffic trailer has been used to collect information. **Logan** responded that Public Works actually use a different tool—the traffic gun—to obtain

individual speeds because the trailer has difficulty detecting speeds from cars behind the first one recorded.

Council Member Gray added that the Osage Recreation Center would hold a special pilot project for the southwest area in District IV for Operation Holiday. He noted that the Neighborhood City Halls are four of the information collection sites for this program.

Other guests were also introduced including **Daniel Kamau, 232 S. Richmond**, who is a Masters of Public Administration graduate from Wichita State University. He said that he was currently substitute teaching for USD 259 but is very interested in taking part in municipal government. **Joyce Offitt** was introduced as a part-time Park and Recreation Department employee who is participating in the City's Mentor/Protégé program. Through the program, Offitt is learning more about the different City departments and attended the meeting tonight to know more about citizen participation.

Council Member Gray asked the Board Members if they had any reports for their neighborhood association.

Dehler, Orchard Breeze Neighborhood Association, stated that it was becoming increasingly difficult to make a left turn at Elder onto Maple and wondered if left turns could be restricted. **Logan** said he would check on it. **Dehler** also reported that the Neighborhood Clean Up is scheduled for October 4th.

McGinty said that Bill Gale had covered everything for the Southwest Neighborhood Association.

Wayne Wells, Delano Neighborhood Association, asked about the City planting some trees for a noise barrier at along the fence on University between Seneca and Sycamore. **Council Member Gray** asked staff to check on the request.

Iola Crandall, Sunflower Neighborhood Association, reported on meeting with Pam Klaus to have a school picnic with the Communities In School staff. Crandall said their neighborhood clean up went well and they were considering a recycling drive effort.

Benton, Southwest Neighborhood Association, said that on September 8 - USD 259. On September 13th, the association would have their picnic and auction with gift certificates from various businesses. Benton said their June clean up was huge, saying that 13 trips were made to the transfer station, 203 tires were collected, and the Neighborhood Association received donations of \$523.00 from residents who appreciated the help with cleaning up. Benton acknowledged the Police for their help at the clean up.

Staff noted the handouts provided on final action of planning cases previously reviewed by the Board. Staff also reported that the interviews for the District IV Neighborhood Assistant would be held next week. She asked if any of the Board Members would be interested or able to serve on the interview panel during a morning or afternoon. **Koon** said he would be able to serve.

Council Member Gray reported on issues for the City Council:

- **Disparity Task Force Study** – Appointments will be made to the Task Force at the next Council meeting. Each council member will make two appointments and the mayor will make one. The study pertains only to how the City awards contracts for businesses to provide services. The Task Force will be an intense effort with frequent meetings and the deadline of December 1, 2003 to complete their study;
- **Water Walk** – 1) The Downtown Development Corporation is filing a formal application to the state that identifies the boundaries of the area planned for development. This is necessary for the state to consider approval of STAR bonds. 2) A Master Plan for the Water Walk will be approved as a formal plan. The Council has only approved the funding mechanism to date.

Wells reminded everyone about the Wichita Independent Neighborhood General meeting on September 11th at 5:30 at the United Way building on Water Street. He said that Chris Cherches, City Manager, would be speaking on the importance of neighborhoods.

Action: Received and filed.

Council Member Gray asked if anyone had any other business. With none provided, Benton (Dehler) moved that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed 8:0 with the meeting ending at 8:40.

Action: Motion passed 8:0 to adjourn the meeting (Benton/Dehler).